

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 – 6 were originally pending in this application. Independent claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2 – 6 were previously cancelled. Thus, only independent claim 1 remains pending in this application and was finally rejected in the Office Action dated July 18, 2006. No new matter has been added.

Attorney for applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview on Thursday, August 17, 2006. Specifically, attorney for applicants appreciates the Examiner's suggestions for amendments to the claim language which further clarifies and distinguishes the present invention from the related art. Accordingly, the amendments to claim 1 presented herein have been formulated with the Examiner's comments in mind and in direct response to the concerns expressed by the Examiner during the telephonic interview on August 17th.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. § 102 - Anticipation

Claims 1 – 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the D'Hooren '251 patent. With the Examiner's comments in mind, claim 1 has been amended to make clear that the molding tool and lifter of the present invention in conjunction with the cover stock prevent molten thermoplastic material from venting along the periphery of the mold cavity when low pressure and high pressure molding techniques are employed. In this way, applicants further distinguish the present invention from the related art by adding descriptive language to clarify the operation of the molding tool and lifter during low pressure injection and high pressure injection operation.

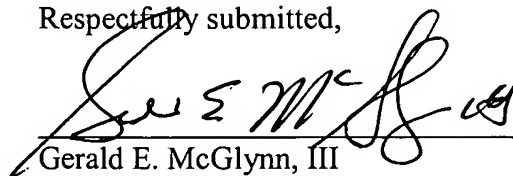
Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 recites structure that is not disclosed or suggested by the prior art and is patentably distinguishable from the subject matter of the reference of record in this case. More specifically, the D'Hooren '251 patent discloses an intentional overflow (i.e. reserve) of molten thermoplastic material during injection molding operation (Column 4, Lines 1-7 and 31-39) while the present invention discloses preventing overflow of molten thermoplastic material during low pressure and high pressure injection molding. As such, the prior art reference does not suggest, but rather teaches away from, the present invention.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment made herein complies with the requirements of form expressly set forth in the previous office action and otherwise present this application in better form for consideration on appeal. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that this amendment be admitted pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 and that the rejections previously advanced be withdrawn.

Finally, applicants respectfully maintain that the claim, as amended, clearly distinguishes over the prior art and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully solicit the allowance of claim 1 pending in this case

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. McGlynn, III
Registration No. 33,737
BLISS McGLYNN, P.C.
2075 W. Big Beaver, Suite 600
Troy, MI 48084
Phone: (248) 649-6090
Fax: (248) 649-6299

Date: August 22, 2006
Attorney Docket No.: 04351 (3883.00067)